

09/849,644

MS150906.01/MSFTP164US

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-27, and 29-34 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 13, and 26 have been amended herein as shown at pages 2-6 to further emphasize various novel aspects, and claims 12 and 24 have been amended to correct minor informalities. Additionally, claims 11, 23, 25, 27, and 29 have been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants' representative acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner indicating that claims 11 and 23 would be allowable if recast in independent form. Additionally, applicants' representative appreciates the courtesies extended during the teleconference on November 17, 2005. Pursuant to the conversation, independent claims 1, 13, and 26 are amended herein to recite limitations indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, it is believed that such amendments place the claims in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 1, 3-27, and 29-34 Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1, 3-27, and 29-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Independent claims 1, 13, and 26 have been amended herein to overcome the subject rejection and expedite fruitful prosecution. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection with respect to independent claims 1, 13, and 26 (and associated dependent claims) is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 25 and 27 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 25 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Claims 25 and 27 have been cancelled herein to expedite prosecution; accordingly, this rejection is moot.

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CONCLUSION

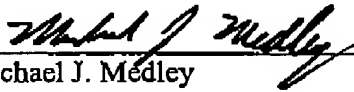
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [MSFTP164US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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